In Situ Microradiometers: Smaller, Faster, and Scalable to Hyperspectral, Phase I

Completed Technology Project (2005 - 2005)



Project Introduction

Radiometers are a crucial element in NASA's studies of Planet Earth. This proposal addresses the basic need for a miniature spectrometer, flexibly configurable and optimized for above and in-water optical property measurements. The innovation we are proposing develops a 1 cm diameter photodetector module, called a "microradiometer." The microradiometer will consist of a photodetector, preamplifier with controllable gain, high resolution analog to digital converter (ADC), microprocessor, and an addressable digital port, all on one small, thin circuit assembly. We anticipate that the design will result in significant improvements in dynamic range, sampling speed, reliability, and reduced power consumption over existing instruments. In one embodiment, a single microradiometer forms the basis of a very small (much less than 2.5 cm diameter) single-channel submersible light sensor. In another application, clusters of microradiometers can be matched with front-end optics (collector/window/filter stack) to form small, fast, less expensive multiwavelength radiometers for a variety of measurements? even hyperspectral applications. The envisioned microradiometer-based systems can be packaged into small underwater housings suitable for deployment on drifters, moorings, towed vehicles, and vertical profilers. Networks of these multiwavelength radiometers, configured to measure irradiance or radiance, can be operated synchronously by a central data acquisition computer.

Primary U.S. Work Locations and Key Partners





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Organizational Responsibility

Responsible Mission Directorate:

Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

Lead Center / Facility:

Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)

Responsible Program:

Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Tech Transfer



Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Tech Transfer

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Organizations Performing Work	Role	Туре	Location
☆Goddard Space Flight Center(GSFC)	Lead	NASA	Greenbelt,
	Organization	Center	Maryland
Biospherical	Supporting	Industry	San Diego,
Instruments, Inc.	Organization		California

Primary U.S. Work Locations	
California	Maryland

Project Management

Program Director:

Jason L Kessler

Program Manager:

Carlos Torrez

Principal Investigator:

Charles Booth

Technology Areas

Primary:

- TX08 Sensors and Instruments
 - ☐ TX08.1 Remote Sensing Instruments/Sensors
 - ☐ TX08.1.4 Microwave, Millimeter-, and Submillimeter-Waves

